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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/841,038	04/25/2001	Fujio Morita	1614.1163	6609

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EXAMINER

FLEURANTIN, JEAN B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/841,038

Applicant(s)

MORITA, FUJIO

Examiner

Jean B Fleurantin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This is in response to the amendment filed on February 08, 2003, in which claims 1-11 are presented for examination.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The references cited in the information disclosure statement (IDS) filed on April 25, 2001, comply with the provisions of MPEP 609. It has been placed in the application file. The information referred to therein has been considered as to merits.

Drawings

4. Figures 1-3B should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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Specification

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because "The present invention". Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Examiner requires Applicant to clarify the submitted document consisting of pages 1-17 found at the end of the instant specification. If such is to be part of the specification, proper description is required. If Applicant intends to submit such as an appendix, then set forth in MPEP CFR 1.96.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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Claims 1, 3-6 and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,125,353 issued to Yagasaki (hereinafter "Yagasaki").

As per claim 1, Yagasaki discloses a search support device in which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network is registered (see col. 3, lines 52-57 and col. 5, lines 53-67), the device comprising: a search unit that determines a category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu (see col. 2, lines 12-27, as a means for searching means, responsive to a search command from the terminal used to browse the product search screen data and for searching the product master table for the products belonging to one category selected from among the list of the categories of the categories selection); further in column 3, lines 17-21, Yagasaki discloses steps of searching means 14 accepts a search command with a category designation from the terminal twenty and referring to the product master table twelve, and it conducts a search for the products that fall under the designated category; and

a registration unit that registers an address in the category (see col. 3, lines 6-8, as the product master table twelve, on the other hand which stores data that associates individual products with the categories that they belong to) and column 5, lines 53-67.

As per claim 3, Yagasaki discloses a search support method by which an address indicating a location of information accessible on a network (see col. 3, lines 52-57), the method comprising the steps of: determining a category of an address designated for registration based on a definition entry and a selection record of a menu (see col. 2, lines 12-27, as a means for searching means, responsive to a search command from the terminal used to browse the product

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search screen data and for searching the product master table for the products belonging to one category selected from among the list of the categories of the categories selection); further in column 3, lines 17-21, Yagasaki discloses steps of searching means 14 accepts a search command with a category designation from the terminal twenty and referring to the product master table twelve, and it conducts a search for the products that fall under the designated category; and

registering an address in the category (see col. 3, lines 6-8, as the product master table twelve, on the other hand which stores data that associates individual products with the categories that they belong to) and column 5, lines 53-67.

As per claim 4, Yagasaki discloses a search support device in which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the information (see col. 3, lines 52-57), the device comprising: a category menu storage unit that stores a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up (see col. 2, lines 15-16, as a product master table where the products classified into the categories are registered); and

a search information generating unit that generates search information associated with a category selected from the category menu (see col. 3, lines 52-57, as a search button 21b, thereby submitting a search command toward the mall server ten, and when this search command reaches the mall server ten in which the product searching means fourteen executes a search for the products that fall under the selected category to create product list screen data) and column 5, lines 53-57.

As per claim 5, Yagasaki discloses the search support device, further comprising: a display unit that displays an address in another form indicating the location of desired information detected based on the search information generated by the search information generating unit (see col. 3, lines 52-57, as a search button 21b, thereby submitting a search command toward the mall server ten, and when this search command reaches the mall server ten in which the product searching means fourteen executes a search for the products that fall under the selected category to create product list screen data); and

an address registration unit that registers the address in the category menu when the address indicates information that can be accessed (see col. 5, lines 54-67, as the product master table thirty three stores information on the online products, where each product is defined by its product name, uniform resource locator (URL) of product description screen, and store operators registers such data contents, in which the product description URL shows the address of an html document that describes the specification of each product).

As per claim 6, Yagasaki discloses the search support device, further comprising an address selection unit that selects the address registered in the category menu so as to make an access to the location of the desired information (see col. 5, lines 54-67, as the product master table thirty three stores information on the online products, where each product is defined by its product name, uniform resource locator (URL) of product description screen, and store operators registers such data contents, in which the product description URL shows the address of an html document that describes the specification of each product).

As per claim 8, Yagasaki discloses a search support method by which a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a network is requested based on search information associated with the desired information (see col. 3, lines 52-57), the method comprising: storing a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up (see col. 2, lines 15-16, as a product master table where the products classified into the categories are registered); and

generating search information associated with a category selected from the category menu (see col. 3, lines 52-57, as a search button 21b, thereby submitting a search command toward the mail server ten, and when this search command reaches the mail server ten in which the product searching means fourteen executes a search for the products that fall under the selected category to create product list screen data).

As per claim 9, Yagasaki discloses a recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device that registered an address indicating a location of accessible information on a network (see col. 3, lines 52-57), the program comprising: a procedure for classifying the address in accordance with a category related to information that can be accessed at the address (see col. 2, lines 22-26, as a means for searching means, responsive to a search command from the terminal used to browse the product search screen data and for searching the product master table for the products belonging to one category selected from among the list of the categories of the categories selection); further in column 3, lines 17-21, Yagasaki discloses steps of searching means 14 accepts a search command with a

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category designation from the terminal twenty and referring to the product master table twelve, and it conducts a search for the products that fall under the designated category; and

a procedure for registering the address classified in accordance with the category (see col. 3, lines 6-8, as the product master table twelve, on the other hand which stores data that associates individual products with the categories that they belong to).

As per claim 10, Yagasaki discloses a recording medium which stores a program for a computer to perform an operation with a search support device that requests a search process for an address indicating a location of desired information on a desired network based on search information associated with the desired information (see col. 3, lines 52-57), the program comprising a procedure for storing a category menu in which predetermined categories are listed up (see col. 2, lines 15-16, as a product master table where the products classified into the categories are registered); and

a procedure for generating search information associated with a category selected from the category menu (see col. 3, lines 52-57, as a search button 21b, thereby submitting a search command toward the mall server ten, and when this search command reaches the mall server ten in which the product searching means 14 executes a search for the products that fall under the selected category to create product list screen data).

As per claim 11, Yagasaki discloses the recording medium, wherein the program further includes a procedure for generating the category menu (see col. 3, lines 36-40, as the product search screen creating means thirteen generates product search screen data and sends it back to

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the terminal twenty, and based on this data the terminal twenty displays the product search screen twenty including a category selection menu 21a).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent No. 6,125,353 issued to Yagasaki (hereinafter "Yagasaki").

As per claim 2, Yagasaki does not explicitly disclose the search support device, wherein the registration unit registers the address designated for registration in the category containing the registered address. However, Yagasaki discloses the product master table 33 stores information on the online products, where each data entry is identified by a unique product code and more specifically each product is defined by its name, Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of product description screen, store code, first category code #1 and second category code #2, in which store operators registers such data content, see col. 5, lines 53-57. But, Yagasaki fails to explicitly teach wherein the registration unit registers the address designated for registration in the category containing the registered address. It would have been obvious to provide a device wherein the registration unit registers the address designated for registration in the category containing the registered address, in order to overcome storage and retrieval problem, thereby

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improving the reliability of the search support device, and recording medium storing program for computer to carry out operation with said search support device.

As per claim 7, Yagasaki does not disclose the search support device, further comprising an icon conversion unit that visually changes the category in which the address is registered by the address registration unit. However, Yagasaki discloses an item can be registered in one or more category, see col. 5, lines 53-67. But, Yagasaki fails to explicitly teach an icon conversion unit that visually changes the category in which the address is registered by the address registration unit. It would have been obvious to provide an icon conversion unit that visually changes the category in which the address is registered by the address registration unit, in order to instantly alert a user of an item belonging to make than one category or class thereby providing user friendly system.

Prior Art

8. The prior art of record and not relied on upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hoekstra et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,905,862 relates to registration of web sites with multiple search engines on a network such as world-wide web. Ryan et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,421,675 relates to a method and apparatus that allows for enhanced database searching, particularly for use as an intranet search engine. Barrera et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,567,800 relates to searching for information stored in a set of websites.

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Contact Information

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication from examiner should be directed to Jean Bolte Fleurantin at (703) 308-6718. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mrs. KIM VU can be reached at (703) 305-8449. The FAX phone numbers for the Group 2100 Customer Service Center are: *After Final* (703) 746-7238, *Official* (703) 746-7239, and *Non-Official* (703) 746-7240. NOTE: Documents transmitted by facsimile will be entered as official documents on the file wrapper unless clearly marked "***DRAFT***".

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group 2100 Customer Service Center receptionist whose telephone numbers are (703) 306-5631, (703) 306-5632, (703) 306-5633.



Jean Bolte Fleurantin

2003-10-01

JBF/